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Chicago **BEAR REPORT**

A NEWSPAPER DEVOTED
EXCLUSIVELY TO THE
CHICAGO BEARS AND
THE NFL

Vol. 20 No. 20 September 30, 1995

**Bears
outgunned
by Rams**

**Kramer
pilots
air attack**

**Dent set
to make
'95 debut**



IT'S A DIRTY JOB...

But Donnell Woolford has to do it





Under pressure

Jim Flanigan sacks Rams quarterback Chris Miller during the Bears' 34-28 loss Sunday in St. Louis. The Bears managed two sacks but again failed to generate consistent pressure on the quarterback. (Photo by Jim Herren)



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Cover photo by Steve Woltmann

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The next issue of *Bear Report* will be printed and mailed on Monday, Oct. 9 following the Bears-Panthers game. There will be no issue next week because of the Bears' bye weekend.

DRAW PLAY

By Dick Kulpa



Chicago BEAR REPORT

Vol. 20 No. 20 Sept. 30, 1995

GENERAL MANAGER

John Welshar

MANAGING EDITOR

Larry Mayer

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Ron Royle, Cathy Hanson

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Down & Dirty

Donnell Woolford excels at a tough position

LARRY MAYER



Donnell Woolford is convinced that being a cornerback in the NFL is more of a death wish than a birthright.

Most little boys grow up dreaming about scoring the winning touchdown in the Super Bowl, not trying to blanket the fastest players on the field in an often futile attempt to avoid personal humiliation.

"Nobody wants to play cornerback," said Woolford, arguably the most talented player on the Bears roster. "You have to be mentally strong because our job is one of the toughest. We get talked about and we get booed when stuff's going

wrong. But when you make plays, people clap, they write big articles about you, and you get to go to Hawaii (for the Pro Bowl).

"You've just got to take the good with the bad."

As a teenager, Woolford never fantasized about becoming a cornerback. He earned all-conference honors as a star running back at Douglas Byrd High in North Carolina, and was prepared to continue his rushing career at Clemson.

He was promised a chance to play running back, but when he arrived as a freshman he discovered a litany of backs ahead of him on the depth chart. Peering over the line of scrimmage, Woolford saw his future.

"As anxious as I am, I felt like I needed to get out and start playing early," he said. "After I saw the talent they already had at running back, I looked across the field and said, 'They look a little thin in the defensive backfield.'"

With that, Woolford paused to enjoy the memory.

"See what I mean," he continued. "Nobody wants to play corner. I figured I might as well trot over there, and that's

where I'm still at."

The Bears are fortunate Woolford had the maturity and the confidence to make the big switch as a freshman in college. And although he has emerged as one of the finest players at his position in the NFL, the former Clemson star often wonders just how he became a cornerback.

"Actually, I still can't figure that out," Woolford said. "I used to play running back, and I was a pretty good one. I just switched over in college and I got to be pretty good at it. But if I had to do it all over again, I might have thought twice about it because it's tough, it's lonely, and it's a lot of hard work."

Lonely? A superior cornerback like Woolford spends more time on an island than the Professor or Mary Ann ever did. With Woolford patrolling the secondary, safeties cheat over to help other defenders and quarterbacks attack the other side of the field.

Woolford didn't earn that type of respect overnight. In fact, he received an



Donnell Woolford has emerged as one of the finest players at his position in the NFL, but the former Clemson star often wonders just how he became a cornerback. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

immediate baptism by fire after joining the Bears as a first-round draft pick in 1989. The 5-foot-9, 188-pounder is one of only seven rookies to start for the Bears on Opening Day over the past 12 seasons.

After a poor performance in a 38-14

Continued on page 15

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After just four games, the Bears are not perfect, but they are right on schedule.

Entering their bye weekend, the Bears have a stretch of three games coming up against sub-par opponents Carolina, Jacksonville and Houston. With a 2-1 record in the NFC Central, the Bears have an excellent opportunity to bolster their overall record before returning to division play on Oct. 30 at Minnesota.

Coach Dave Wannstedt cautioned pre-season observers not to put too much stock in the Bears' easy-appearing schedule. The third-year Chicago boss said "ask me on the Monday before the next game" when it comes to evaluating the difficulty of the Bears' next opponent. But the Carolina, Jacksonville and Houston trifecta sounds better to me than say, San Francisco, Dallas and Miami.

Bye and bye, there will be injuries to mend this week.

Twisted ankles, sprained knees, swollen hands...you name it and Bears players will be treating the ailment as they take advantage of the bye.

Early-season injuries to running backs Raymont Harris (shoulder), Lewis Tillman (ankle) and Robert Green (ankle) pressed rookie Rashaan Salaam into starting duty last Sunday at St. Louis. Harris likely will miss at least another month with his broken collarbone. But Green and Tillman should benefit fully from the week off.

Green was leading the Bears in rushing against Tampa Bay, darting, juking

Time to fatten up is here for hungry Bears

FRED MITCHELL



and sprinting his way for 72 yards on just 13 carries.

Green, who scored the first rushing touchdown of his NFL career and third overall, also caught two passes for 18 yards.

But just when the Bears were putting the finishing touches on a 25-6 victory over Tampa Bay, Green's career day turned into a real bummer. An ankle

injury sustained with 8:24 remaining ended his game prematurely. Green was carted away to the lockerroom as the Tampa Bay defense finally extracted its 5-foot-8, 212 pounds of flesh.

Extensive X-rays the next day proved negative, but the pain in Green's right ankle was no less excruciating.

Green had won a starting assignment through attrition, since backs Harris and Tillman were hobbled in previous games.

So the responsibility to start at St. Louis fell squarely on the shoulder pads of a young man not yet old enough to legally accept a drink in a bar — Salaam, the 20-year-old rookie from Colorado.

Salaam's new designation as a starter was more cosmetic than substantive. Against Tampa Bay he carried the ball a game-high 20 times, but for only 55 yards (2.8 avg.) and he fumbled once.

"I have no reservations," said Wannstedt.

Salaam had his helmet surgically removed from his head by Tampa Bay linebacker Hardy Nickerson with 6:52 left in the second period.

"The guy pulled my helmet off and I fell on the ball," said Salaam, who lay on the ground for several minutes after the play while trainers attended to him.

Tillman reinjured his sprained ankle while covering a kick on special teams at Tampa. "I went down on special teams and I hit a guy and he landed on my ankle," said Tillman.

Fullback Antonio Carter left that game with heat cramps.

"The more carries I get, the stronger I will play," said Salaam. "I am ready for the challenge of the NFL. I can play at this level."

Schedule oddities

The Bears traveled to Tampa in

September and the Bucs come to Chicago on Dec. 17. What were the schedulermakers thinking about?

"We haven't gotten any explanation. Just the usual, that it is very complicated to schedule so many teams," said Bears president Michael McCaskey.

The Rams had petitioned the NFL to play the Bears in the first game in their domed stadium. Instead, the Bears played them at Busch Stadium, while the dome opener will involve the 49ers on Oct. 22.

Running out of gas

The Bears must learn to pace themselves. Seems they have this early-season routine down pat. Over the last six years, the Bears are 16-6 in the month of September (not counting the St. Louis game last Sunday). It is the end of the season where they have run out of gas.

More action than ever

The 1995 regular season contains 240 games, the most in NFL history, and concludes on the weekend of December 23-25. The Cardinals host Dallas on December 25 in the final Monday night telecast of the season. The postseason begins with the wildcard games on Saturday and Sunday, December 30-31. The wildcard winners join the remaining AFC and NFC division champions in the divisional playoffs on Saturday and Sunday, January 6-7.

If they can sustain their decent start, the Bears should be invited to the postseason party.

Fred Mitchell is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune.



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CENTRAL ISSUES

The Bears' 2-1 record against division opponents could bode well for an NFC Central crown. In each of Dave Wannstedt's first two seasons as coach, Chicago lost three of its first four division games and finished with a 3-5 mark within the Central.

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INSIDE THE BEARS

Confidence is the key for DBs

Bear Report asked Bears coach Bob Slowik to assess the secondary. The following is that evaluation in his own words:

With the secondary, our biggest emphasis is no big plays, so in that regard we've got to do better. When you get a big play against you, it's really damaging and it can just deflate the defense. An example of that, of course, was the Green Bay game. That's our No. 1 objective right there.

Preventing big plays is just a matter of emphasis, because guys can't line up and play scared or anything like that. You've got to go out there and be confident and try to make some plays and make things happen, but by the same token understand the consequences of a big play if they get behind you. In that regard, that's just a constant emphasis for us.

Against Tampa Bay in particular I think we made a lot of progress. Guys have just started making plays. They've been progressing all year, and they worked hard in training camp. Jeremy Lincoln, for example, got some reward for his efforts. He ended up having a great week in Tampa. He used good technique, made the play, and of course his interception set up a touchdown on the next play.

With the addition of Marty Carter, I think our ability level is as good as a lot

Preventing big plays not of secondary importance

of the top secondaries in the NFL. That's for darned sure. With Carter, Donnell Woolford and Mark Carrier, if they play to our potential, you're darned right. Now you've got to take all of that in the context of the team. If we make some plays and get good pressure up front, it all kind of works together. No matter how good we are, you still need the guys up front to be helping us.

As far as playing aggressively, I hope they understand what the consequences are of someone beating us for a touchdown. You can't play with a fear, but you must obviously understand what could happen. They're out there playing good technique and just trying to make plays. They're not gambling. The whole thing is, yeah, you want to be aggressive, but you don't want to guess. If you guess, then you're hurting your team.

I think Donnell is one of the very best cornerbacks in the NFL. When Donnell's having a good day, you won't catch many balls on him at all. The only way most people feel they can really beat him is to try and trick him. If he's on top of it as far as that goes, beating him is a very difficult thing to do.

Donnell's one of the most physical corners in the whole NFL as far as tackling. He doesn't get nearly the credit he probably deserves for his ability to play the run, get off blocks and make tackles — and I mean crucial tackles.

Jeremy made a heck of a lot of progress after those first two games. In the preseason I think a lot of it was that he came into camp with a real aggressive attitude and worked on being aggressive and was intense. Therefore, we probably had more penalties than we really wanted and than he wanted.

With his work and his intensity, he's

starting to make some plays and got a big interception against Tampa Bay.

Mark had a heck of a camp and he's been doing a heck of a job in the first three games, getting around the ball, making tackles, and quarterbacking the secondary back there. I think that he's going to just continue to get better as the year goes on, and he'll get more and more opportunities to the ball. He's been close a couple times as it is and he's going to have some more, and he'll make the plays.

Marty has been a fabulous addition. Not only because of his physical ability but his professional attitude, his joy of the game practicing, the way he fits in with the players, and the way the players took him in when he first got here. And he's earned everything he's got as far as respect from players and coaches on the field by making plays and tackles, whether it be in the run game or the pass

game. The guy's a football player.

The communication among the defensive backs is crucial. Because of the crowd and the distance between them, you can't count on verbal communication, so everything has to be reinforced with a hand signal.

As far as the nickel guys, you're not going to be a good defense or win unless we can stop people on third downs, so all those nickel guys are as important if not more important than the rest. You bust your tail to get people in third down situations, and to have somebody convert and get another three opportunities is what kills you. That was evident in the Green Bay game.

The nickel guys are making progress. We're short of John Mangum there with his injury. But we're getting a little bit better and more experienced as the year goes on, and we've got to keep performing better.

As far as the secondary's key to success, I don't want to repeat it over and over, but as long as we keep things in front of us, those guys are going to make plays and get the turnovers we need.

Interview done by Larry Mayer.



The secondary's play so far this season has given safety Mark Carrier and cornerback Jeremy Lincoln reason to celebrate. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

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Bears rammed in St. Louis

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

ST. LOUIS — The Bears masterfully dug themselves out of a deep hole Sunday in St. Louis, only to get conked on the head with the shovel.

Erik Kramer piloted a high-powered air attack as Chicago overcame two costly turnovers and a 10-0 first quarter deficit to grab a 21-17 halftime advantage. But Kramer's four touchdown passes and 317 yards through the air weren't enough on this day.

A disastrous third quarter collapse by the Bears' defense enabled the Rams to rally for two touchdowns and an eventual 34-28 victory before 59,679 raucous fans at Busch Stadium.

The loss drops the Bears to 2-2, one game behind Green Bay (3-1) in the NFC Central. The Rams (4-0) remained undefeated and increased their turnover ratio to a league-leading plus-14.

"To beat a team like this, you have to put offense, defense and the kicking game together, and we didn't do that," said coach Dave Wannstedt. "We were sporadic. We had opportunities to get it done, and we just didn't get it done. We've got to find ways to get better."

Kramer got things rolling on the game's first play from scrimmage, hooking up with Jeff Graham for a 49-yard completion on a short slant pattern to the St. Louis 17-yard line.

Kramer, however, played Santa Claus on the next snap. The ball squirted out of his hands as he turned to hand it off to tailback Rashaan Salaam. Rather than safely falling on the fumble, Kramer unsuccessfully tried to scoop it up on the run. St. Louis safety Toby Wright picked up the ball and sprinted 73 yards for a touchdown to give the Rams a 7-0 lead before the game was a minute old.

It was the Rams' fourth defensive score of the season.

Later in the first quarter, Salaam, making his first NFL start, fumbled for the second time this season. Cornerback Anthony Parker recovered the ball at the Bears' 24, setting up Steve McLaughlin's 24-yard field goal which gave the Rams a



10-0 edge with 3:35 left in the first quarter.

"We played into their hands, the way the thing starts with the two turnovers and spotting them 10 points," Wannstedt said. "You can't do that on the road with this type of crowd."

Undeterred by the deficit, the Bears' offense responded. Kramer capped a nine-play, 68-yard drive with a 15-yard TD pass to a leaping Keith Jennings. The veteran tight end held onto the ball despite absorbing a solid hit to draw the Bears to within 10-7 with 13:40 remaining in the second quarter.

Called upon to keep the momentum intact, the Bears' defense failed miserably. Rams quarterback Chris Miller hit a wide open Todd Kinchen for a 6-yard TD on third-and-goal to give St. Louis a 17-7 lead with 7:56 left in the half.

The Bears bounced back again as Kramer connected with Curtis Conway for a 20-yard TD pass deep in the left corner of the end zone to make it 17-14 with 4:28 to play.

After a key sack by Jim Flanigan forced a St. Louis punt, the Bears took a 21-17 lead as Kramer culminated a 13-play, 73-yard drive with a perfectly thrown 13-yard TD pass to Michael Timpson with :47 left in the first half.

"They scored one (offensive) touchdown in the first half," Wannstedt said, "and we knew they weren't going to do anything differently at halftime, so you



In his first NFL start, Rashaan Salaam gained 40 yards on 16 carries in Sunday's 34-28 loss to the St. Louis Rams. (Photo by Jim Herren)

come out in the second half and you feel good about that."

It didn't take long for Wannstedt's optimism to vanish. The Rams ripped through the Bears like telephone book pages, scoring touchdowns on two third quarter possessions to take a 31-21 lead they would never relinquish.

Former Bear tight end Marv Cook caught a 1-yard TD pass from Miller off a nifty play-action fake on fourth-and-goal for the first score, and Miller later threw his third TD pass of the game, a 12-yard strike to tight end Troy Drayton

with :54 left in the third quarter.

After gaining just 14 yards on seven first half carries, bruising runner Jerome Bettis was unstoppable in the third quarter, gaining 45 yards on eight carries as St. Louis took command.

"They just came out confident and started running the ball and had some success with it," Flanigan said. "They stretched us and started to hit some creases on us. I don't know if it was maybe a little lack of aggression in the third quarter. Maybe we were guessing a little bit. I really don't know what the problem was."

Kramer brought the Bears back again, hitting Jeff Graham with a 47-yard TD pass to make it 31-28 with 12:59 to play. After a miserable 32-yard punt by rookie Todd Sauerbrun, McLaughlin booted a 25-yard field goal to make it 34-28 with 2:42 left. On the previous play Bears nickel back Dwayne Joseph kept his team in the game by dropping Leonard Russell for a five-yard loss on third-and-goal from the Bears' 2.

Chicago's final chance at victory fizzled when Conway was tackled two yards shy of a first down on fourth-and-eight from the Bears' 49 with 1:40 remaining in the game.

"There was a lot of great efforts out there today," Wannstedt said. "Erik played well, and I thought our offensive line at times gave him good protection. But to beat a good football team, you need to play well as a team. You can't have spots here and there. We've got to put the whole thing together."

"We had a chance today to take a little step forward, and we didn't do it."

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Minnesota.....	2	2	0	.500	95	88
Detroit.....	1	3	0	.250	74	87

Eastern

Dallas.....	4	0	0	1.000	123	58
Arizona.....	1	3	0	.250	66	109
N.Y. Giants.....	1	3	0	.250	68	98
Philadelphia.....	1	3	0	.250	75	115
Washington.....	1	3	0	.250	72	79

Western

St. Louis.....	4	0	0	1.000	99	65
San Francisco.....	3	1	0	.750	117	62
Atlanta.....	3	1	0	.750	73	88
Carolina.....	0	3	0	.000	39	85
New Orleans.....	0	4	0	.000	88	113

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Eastern

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Miami.....	3	0	0	1.000	95	27
Buffalo.....	2	1	0	.667	58	45
Indianapolis.....	1	2	0	.333	62	68
New England.....	1	2	0	.333	23	62
N.Y. Jets.....	1	3	0	.250	68	102

Central

Cleveland.....	3	1	0	.750	85	47
Cincinnati.....	2	2	0	.500	97	100
Houston.....	2	2	0	.500	72	79
Pittsburgh.....	2	2	0	.500	91	104
Jacksonville.....	0	4	0	.000	44	85

Western

Kansas City.....	3	1	0	.750	94	79
Oakland.....	3	1	0	.750	102	55
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By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

Kicking game costlly in loss

Bears rookie **Todd Sauerbrun** was finally consistent in Sunday's 34-28 loss to the St. Louis Rams. Unfortunately, he was consistently lousy.

Sauerbrun averaged just 35.5 yards on three punts including a costly 32-yarder late in the game that set up the Rams' final field goal.

The highly-touted second-round pick from West Virginia wasn't any better on kickoffs. Only one of his five kicks landed inside the St. Louis 10-yard line.

The Rams' average drive started on their own 40-yard line.

"With the field position, our kicking game killed us," said coach **Dave Wannstedt**. "We didn't have a chance to back them up once."

When **Chris Gardocki** struggled last season, he blamed the Bears for changing his approach from a three-step to a two-step approach. The coaching staff is not tinkering with Sauerbrun, however, which makes his problems all the more puzzling.

"All we're telling him is just, 'Kick the ball as hard as you can like you have the last 15 years of your life,'" Wannstedt said. "We don't care where it goes. Just kick it."

Wannstedt wouldn't say whether the Bears would sign another punter to provide competition for the rookie, but the coach is clearly upset about the situation.

"He's not getting the job done," Wannstedt said. "It's not one guy, but we've got to get better there somehow, some way. We're trying everything that we know how to get him to respond, and it's a very frustrating situation."

PASSING FANCY: Erik Kramer became the first Bear quarterback to throw four touchdown passes in a game since **Jack Concannon** accomplished the feat in a 35-17 win over Green Bay on Dec. 13, 1970. Kramer's 317 yards passing were the most by a Bear since **Vince Evans** threw for 336 yards in a 31-17 loss at Detroit on Oct. 16, 1983.

"Erik was under steady pressure. Our line did a good job, but he stepped up and

kept his composure and really did a nice job," Wannstedt said. "He made some good decisions out there."

The most impressive aspect of Kramer's performance was the fact that he wasn't backed by any semblance of a running game. With **Robert Green**, **Lewis Tillman** and **Raymont Harris** sidelined by injuries, rookie **Rashaan Salaam** started his first NFL game and wasn't much of a factor. Salaam rushed for 40 yards on 16 carries and lost a fumble for the second time this season.

"We didn't shy away from the running game, it's just that our offensive line was getting pretty good protection, and Erik had a hot hand, so we were trying to mix the run and the pass as much as we could," Wannstedt explained.

Kramer's primary targets were **Jeff Graham** (6 receptions for 145 yards and 1 TD) and **Curtis Conway** (6-63-1).

AIR RAID: Once again the Bears failed to generate consistent pressure on the quarterback. **Chris Miller** completed 21 of 31 passes for 231 yards and three touchdowns before leaving the game with a concussion in the fourth quarter. Miller was injured when hit in the head by linebacker **Vinson Smith**, a former teammate of Miller's with the Falcons.

FEATURE BACK: Wannstedt isn't worried that the fumbles will retard Salaam's development.

"He's ready, we were just throwing it today," Wannstedt said. "I thought he came out and made a few nice runs."

"We've just got to keep pounding it to him. He just needs the work, the repetitions, the game time, and to get in there under the lights. That's all part of it. His attitude is good, he's willing, and he'll be

fine."

LINE CHANGE: Todd Burger filled in admirably at left guard for **Todd Perry**, who missed the game with a leg injury. The Bears' offensive line didn't allow a sack for the second straight week.

Burger controlled Rams defensive tackle **D'Marco Farr** fairly well from a personal standpoint, but the loss was difficult to stomach for the seldom-used former Penn State standout.

"It's very disappointing," Burger said. "I haven't given that much effort and put that much into a game since I was in college," Burger said. "Every game means a lot to me, but when you're playing 60 plays instead of five or six plays, it just hits you that much more. I haven't had tears in my eyes after a loss since college, but it's a tough one to handle."

JUST SHORT: There was some debate over who was at fault following the Bears' final offensive play of the game. Conway was stopped two yards shy of a first down on fourth-and-eight

after running a six-yard route.

"That was how the play was designed," Conway said. "That was my depth."

"We've got to get enough depth to give ourselves a chance to make the first down, and the route was short," Wannstedt countered.

ROSTER MOVES: Bears on the inactive list included Green (ankle), Tillman (ankle), Harris (collarbone), Perry (leg), **S John Mangum** (thigh), **LB Sean Harris** (hamstring), **G Evan Pilgrim** and **DE Richard Dent**.

TE Ryan Wetnight, suffering from a bruised hip, was active but did not play. Other active Bears who did not play included **QB Steve Walsh**, **T Troy Auzenne**, **G Marcus Spears** and **DE Pat Riley**.

Anthony Marshall started at safety in place of ailing **Mark Carrier**, who did play but was bothered by a twisted knee.

Fullback **Mike Faulkerson** was activated from the practice squad and played on special teams. Defensive end **Garland Hawkins** was waived off the 53-man roster to make room for Faulkerson.

Faulkerson was then released on Monday to make room for quarterback **Steve Stenstrom**, whose two-week roster exemption expired. The Bears hope to resign Faulkerson to their practice squad.

The Bears have decided to pay Stenstrom's \$627,000 salary this season rather than risk losing him by exposing him to waivers.

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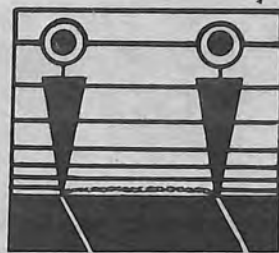
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Erik Kramer passed for four touchdowns and 317 yards in Sunday's 34-28 loss to the Rams at Busch Stadium. (Bear Report photo by Jim Herren)



GAME STATISTICS

SCORING SUMMARY

Chicago Bears	0	21	0	7	28
St. Louis Rams	10	7	14	3	34

Rams, 1, 14:05, Wright 73-yard fumble return (McLaughlin, kick) 0-7

Rams, 1, 3:35, McLaughlin 45-yard field goal (4-3, 1:57) 0-10

Bears, 2, 13:40, Jennings 15-yard pass from Kramer (Butler, kick) (9-68, 4:55) 7-10

Rams, 2, 7:56, Kinchen 6-yard pass from Miller (McLaughlin, kick) (12-68, 5:44) 7-17

Bears, 2, 4:28, Conway 20-yard pass from Kramer (Butler, kick) (8-60, 3:28) 14-17

Bears, 2, 0:47, Timpson 12-yard pass from Kramer (Butler, kick) (13-73, 2:27) 21-17

Rams, 3, 7:23, Cook 1-yard pass from Miller (McLaughlin, kick) (14-67, 7:37) 21-24

Rams, 3, 0:54, Drayton 12-yard pass from Miller (McLaughlin, kick) (6-69, 3:39) 21-31

Bears, 4, 12:59, Graham 47-yard pass from Kramer (Butler, kick) (6-76, 2:55) 28-31

Rams, 4, 2:42, McLaughlin 25-yard field goal (10-29, 4:15) 28-34

Attendance: 59,679; tickets distributed: 59,724; unused: 45; time: 3:10

Weather: Partly cloudy, temperature 52, wind E 5 mph

FINAL TEAM STATISTICS

	Bears	Rams
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	20	22
By Rushing	4	6
By Passing	14	16
By Penalty	2	0
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	7-12-58%	7-15-47%
FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY	1-2-50%	2-2-100%
TOTAL NET YARDS	364	339
Total Offensive Plays (inc. time thrown passing)	58	68
Average gain per offensive play	6.3	5.0
NET YARDS RUSHING	47	106
Total Rushing Plays	20	33
Average gain per rushing play	2.4	3.2
NET YARDS PASSING	317	233
Times thrown — yards lost attempting to pass	0-0	2-16
Gross yards passing	317	249
PASS ATTEMPTS-COMPLETIONS-HAD INT.	38-27-0	33-23-0
Average gain per pass play (inc. # thrown passing)	8.3	6.7
KICKOFFS-In End Zone-Touchbacks	5-0-0	7-2-0
PUNTS Number and Average	3-35.3	4-41.3
Had Blocked	0	0
FGs-PATs Had Blocked	0-0	0-0
TOTAL RETURN YARDAGE (Not Including Kickoffs)	13	23
No. and Yards Punt Returns	2-13	2-23
No. and Yards Kickoff Returns	7-81	5-107
No. and Yards Interception Returns	0-0	0-0
PENALTIES Number and Yards	0-0	9-60
FUMBLES Number and Lost	3-2	1-0
TOUCHDOWNS	4	4
Rushing	0	0
Passing	4	3
EXTRA POINTS Made-Attempts	4-4	4-4
FIELD GOALS Made-Attempts	0-0	2-2
SAFETIES	0	0
FINAL SCORE	28	34
TIME OF POSSESSION	24:22	35:38

CHICAGO BEARS

RUSHING	Att.	Net Yds.	Avg.	Long Gain	TD
Salaam	16	40	2.5	8	0
Kramer	3	6	2.0	4	0
Johnson	1	1	1.0	1	0

PASSING	Att.	Com.	Yds.	TKD	Yds.	TD	LG	Had Int.
Kramer	38	27	317	0	0	4	49	0

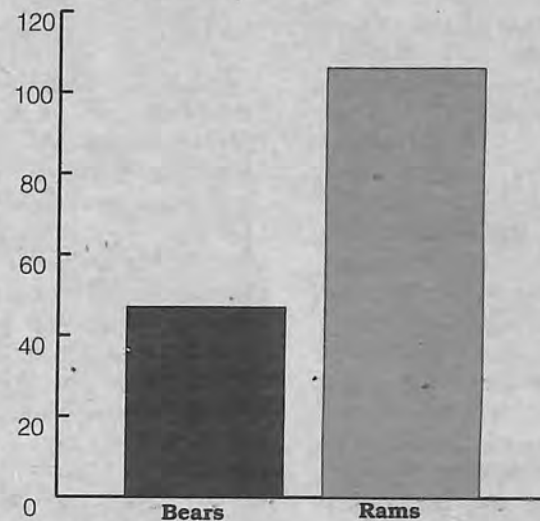
PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Graham	6	145	49	1
Conway	6	63	20	1
Jennings	4	41	15	1
Johnson	4	18	14	0
Timpson	3	31	12	1
Carter	3	11	7	0
Gedney	1	8	8	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
Sauerbrun	3	106	35.3	1	0	40

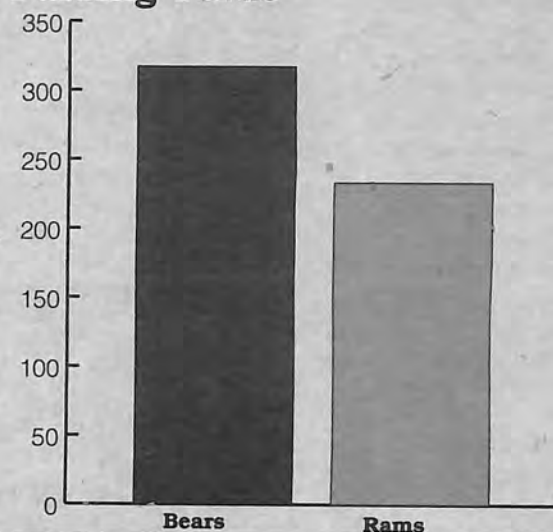
PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Graham	2	1	13	10	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Timpson	3	0	42	17	0
Primus	2	0	39	22	0

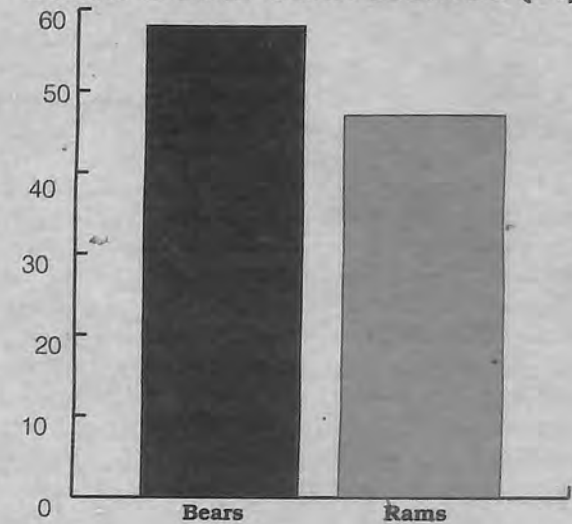
Rushing Yards



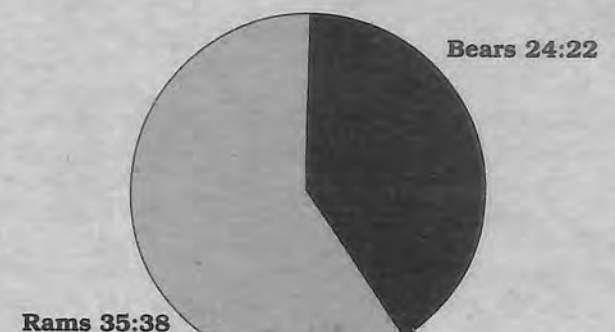
Passing Yards



Third Down Conversions (%)



Time of Possession



ST. LOUIS RAMS

	Att.	Net Yds.	Avg.	Long Gain	TD
Bettis	22	74	3.4	14	0
Miller	1	13	13.0	13	0
Bailey	1	9	9.0	9	0
Wolfley	2	7	3.5	4	0
Russell	7	3	0.4	6	0

PASSING	Att.	Com.	Yds.	TKD	Yds.	TD	LG	Had Int.
Miller	31	21	231	1	9	3	23	0
Rypien	2	2	18	1	7	0	9	0

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Drayton	8	106	23	1
Bruce	6	83	23	0
Kinchen	3	29	14	1
Bailey	2	5	9	0
Cook	2	-2	1	1
Hester	1	16	16	0
Bettis	1	12	12	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	G
Landeta	4	165	41.3	1	2	52

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Kinchen	2	0	23	14	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Kinchen	3	0	60	25	0
Thomas	2	0	47	27	0

CHICAGO BEARS

	T	A	SK	YL	INT.	PD	FR
Cain	8	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0

Carter	7	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Carrier	5	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Smith	4	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Woolford	4	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Minter	4	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Cox	3	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Spellman	3	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Simpson	1	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Flanigan	3	0	1.0	9.0	0	0	0
Lincoln	3	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Zorich	2	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Fontenot	2	0	1.0	7.0	0	0	0
Miniefield	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Joseph	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Thierry	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0

ST. LOUIS RAMS

	T	A	SK	YL	INT.	PD	FR
Phifer	7	1	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
Jenkins	7	0	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
Parker	7	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	1
Wright	7	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	1
Lyght	5	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Stokes	3	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Lyle	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
Carter	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Dorn	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Homco	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Jones	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Conlan	0	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0

KEY: T=Tackle, A=Assist, SK=Sack, YL=Yards Lost
INT.=Interceptions, PD=Pass Defense, FR=Fumble Recovery

Distressing loss hard to fathom

DOUG BUFFONE



Sunday's loss to the St. Louis Rams was very disappointing to me because it was a great chance to make a move just before the bye week against a team I feel the Bears should have beaten.

The Rams entered the game with the league's 25th-ranked offense, but they were still able to put up 34 points on the board. They did come in with a turnover ratio of plus-12, and they were true to form, upping that figure to plus-14 with a couple of fumble recoveries.

Amazingly, the Rams have now forced 14 turnovers and not committed a single one. That is the primary reason they haven't lost in four games.

The first quarter fumble by Erik Kramer that was returned 73 yards for a touchdown was not just a seven-point swing. It could have been a 14-point swing. The Bears were on the verge of scoring a touchdown, and they certainly were in field goal range.

The Bears struggled with their kicking game all day, giving St. Louis great field position. Something must be done about Todd Sauerbrun's kicking and punting.

As far as the defense, their play in the third quarter cost them the game. It's as simple as that. They came out in the second half with a 21-17 lead and allowed the Rams to take the lead by chewing up seven and a half minutes. I'd rather give up a long bomb for a touchdown than go through all that aggravation.

The Bears' defense must learn to make a stand when they're called upon. The way the Rams ran the football against them in the third quarter was the

key. Jerome Bettis just wore them down. Even though it was a wild first half, when you come out of the locker room at half-time, you've got to play hard-nosed football. The Rams played smash mouth football, and the Bears simply didn't rise to the occasion.

You hear everyone talking about how they must play 60 minutes. Well, you can talk about it all you want. It's time to start doing it. And the Bears won't be a solid playoff contender until they do so.

There's no question the offense is far ahead of the defense. Good defenses stop third-and-10 and third-and-15 situations. There's a certain mindset you must have in that scenario. You bust your butt just to get an offense in that predicament, and then you can't allow them to get the first down. By stopping them there, does anyone realize how many more plays that gives your own offense?

The Bears' defense has looked terrific at times this season. But then for three or four or five plays they turn into a dishrag. It's hard to understand, but there's just no consistency whatsoever.

Kevin Miniefield made a great play reading and stopping a screen pass, Jim Flanigan looked sharp with a sack and some other tackles, Vinson Smith put some pressure on the quarterback, and Al Fontenot also got a sack. But from a team concept, something was lacking somewhere.

Offensively, Erik Kramer is playing phenomenally. He's doing all the right things and making all the right reads. Without much of a running game, Kramer nearly won Sunday's game by himself.

But I don't want to see this team turn strictly into a passing team. When teams start to lean on their passing game, they forget about running the football, and everyone knows you must balance the two to be successful.

Doug Buffone hosts the "Doug Buffone Sports Magazine" Sunday mornings on SportsChannel and is a regular contributor on WSCR-AM Radio.

NFL RESULTS

Week 4

BYE: Buffalo, Carolina, Indianapolis, Miami, New England, Seattle
Sunday, Sept. 24

St. Louis 34, BEARS 28
Green Bay 24, Jacksonville 14
N.Y. Giants 45, New Orleans 29
Minnesota 44, Pittsburgh 24
San Diego 17, Denver 6
Dallas 34, Arizona 20
Oakland 48, Philadelphia 17
Cleveland 35, Kansas City 17
Tampa Bay 14, Washington 6
Atlanta 13, N.Y. Jets 3
Houston 38, Cincinnati 28
Monday, Sept. 25
Detroit 27, San Francisco 24

Week 5

BYE: Bears, Detroit, Green Bay, Minnesota
Sunday, Oct. 1

New England at Atlanta Noon
Miami at Cincinnati Noon
Tampa Bay at Carolina Noon
Philadelphia at New Orleans Noon
Dallas at Washington Noon
St. Louis at Indianapolis Noon
Kansas City at Arizona 3 p.m.
Jacksonville at Houston 3 p.m.
Denver at Seattle 3 p.m.
San Diego at Pittsburgh 3 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at San Francisco 3 p.m.
Oakland at N.Y. Jets 7 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 2
Buffalo at Cleveland 8 p.m.

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Marshall put on pedestal

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

Arriving for an interview session with the Chicago media last week, Anthony Marshall sat quietly on a bench outside Halas Hall.

The unassuming first-year player was immediately persuaded to stand on the bench so the throng of cameramen could get a better shot of him. It was the perfect metaphor for Marshall, who's left obscurity behind for a place on pro football's pedestal after blocking a punt in two straight games.

The former LSU star blocked a Craig Hentrich punt Sept. 11, giving the Bears a chance to rally from a 21-point deficit

in an eventual 27-24 loss to the Packers. Six days later Marshall blocked a Reggie Roby punt and returned it 11 yards for a touchdown in a 25-6 rout of Tampa Bay.

"Boy, I know how it feels now, don't I?" Marshall joked as he nervously peered down at about two dozen reporters. "When I first came here I didn't get too much media exposure, but I made a couple of plays and now I'm the hero. It feels great to be a hero, but I don't like the cameras staring at me too much."

Marshall better grow accustomed to the notoriety, because the glare of the media spotlight is nothing compared to the attention he will now attract on the football field. After blocking two punts,

Marshall will undoubtedly become public enemy No. 1 when opposing special teams coaches formulate their game plans.

"He'll have a bounty on his head," predicted Bears special teams coach Danny Abramowicz.

Marshall isn't worried about any special scrutiny from opponents, however.

"Of course they're probably going to pay a little more attention to me, but we've got 10 other guys out there working hard," Marshall said. "We've just got to keep working together, and hopefully somebody else — if not me — can make the plays."

Marshall originally signed with the Bears last year but was waived in the

final cutdown. Two days later he joined the practice squad, where he remained for the first 13 regular season games. He was activated Dec. 9 and participated on special teams in the final three regular season contests and both playoff games.

The recognition Marshall is currently receiving is well deserved. Blocking a punt in two straight games is practically unprecedented. Since 1960, the Bears have blocked two punts in an entire season only in 1976 and 1978. Unfortunately, NFL records do not go back any further.

Prior to the Green Bay game, the Bears had blocked a total of two punts in their previous 131 games (including playoffs). Marshall is the only Bear to block two punts in a season since at least 1960.

It wouldn't seem like it, but Marshall says he's still adjusting to performing on the special teams units. At LSU, he participated on special teams strictly as a freshman. He spent his final three seasons as a starting safety.

"Getting back to the special teams mode took a little adjustment, but right now I'm feeling pretty comfortable," Marshall said. "It's kind of hard being a starter in college and then playing special teams again. But you've just got to take the role they give you. I made the team on special teams, and I've got to just continue to do a good job."

Sack specialists

It's debatable whether the impending return of Richard Dent provided the motivation, but something certainly inspired starting defensive ends Alonzo Spellman and John Thierry.

In the Bears' recent 25-6 win over Tampa Bay, Spellman set a club record with a sack in his seventh straight regular season game, while Thierry turned in his best performance since joining the Bears as a first-round pick last season.

Spellman had a sack or half-sack in each of the final four games last year and opened 1995 with one quarterback takedown in each of the first three games. The previous record of sacks in consecutive games was six, set by Steve McMichael in 1989.

Thierry, meanwhile, recorded eight tackles including two sacks. He also forced a fumble, recovered a fumble and batted down a pass. The performance earned him a game ball from the coaching staff. He was even nominated for NFC Defensive Player of the Week but lost out to San Francisco safety Merton Hanks.

Thierry, a linebacker at Alcorn State, has been slow to adjust to his new position with the Bears.

"It definitely helped him, but let's wait and see what happens," said coach Dave Wannstedt. "There's no question he's getting better. Everybody wants it to happen overnight, but the guy did go out and play well, and that's real positive."

—Larry Mayer

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By the time the Bears play the Carolina Panthers next, Steve Stenstrom might be Carolina's quarterback the way things are going for both the Panthers and Stenstrom.

The Panthers drafted Kerry Collins No. 1 because they recognized the importance of building a franchise around a quarterback.

General manager Bill Polian saw it first-hand in Buffalo, where the Bills floundered until Jim Kelly came aboard. President Mike McCormack saw it first-hand in Cleveland, where he blocked for Jim Brown and wished Otto Graham had stuck around another decade. Owner Jerry Richardson saw it first-hand in Baltimore, where he caught a few passes from Johnny Unitas.

But the Panthers didn't want to play Collins right away. They didn't want to throw him into the fray behind an expansion line and see him turn into Jim Plunkett, so shell-shocked his first year in New England that he was well into his 30s before leading a different team, the Raiders, to Super Bowl victories.

Any second-guess of the Panther strategy was delayed as soon as the lowly Falcons assaulted the Panther line for nine sacks in the season opener.

The primary victim of the early-season quarterback woes in Carolina was Frank Reich, a career backup and a pretty good one in Buffalo. Once he arrived in Carolina, Reich demonstrated why he was a career backup.

Against the Rams two weeks ago, Reich was yanked in the second quarter and replaced by Jack Trudeau, who was worse. After Trudeau threw three interceptions, the Panthers had no choice but to play Collins. He had attempted two passes in previous brief appearances, but had not completed one until the Rams' game. It went for a touchdown, to Rams' defensive back Torin Dorn.

The quarterback juggling by coach Dom Capers exposed a bothersome trend to some ways of thinking. It seems there is a shortage of quarterbacks in the NFL. According to quarterback guru Bill Walsh, there is a reason for it.

"There is a trend you don't like to see in the NFL of just not drafting quarterbacks," Walsh said.

Or, like Stenstrom, they are drafted in later rounds. Last draft, after Steve McNair and Collins, the first round was bereft of quarterbacks. The fourth round yielded Stenstrom, Minnesota's Chad May, Philadelphia's Dave Barr, Jacksonville's Rob Johnson, and Cleveland's Eric Zeier.

"I think teams don't want to spend that kind of money on someone who isn't going to play for a couple years. With the salary cap, you can't pay that kind of money to someone to be on the bench two or three years and then conceivably leave (via free agency). So they're not investing in the position like they once did. They prefer to get a guy later and have less investment.

"It's too bad, because you see teams trying to go back to 35-40 year-old quarterbacks, trying to win now and not build for the future."

Stenstrom, once projected to go higher, became a rare fourth-round holdout. When the Chiefs tried to sneak him

Stenstrom not an average Joe

DON PIERSON



through waivers, the Bears claimed him. But the Bears may soon have to try the same tactic in order to attempt to reduce his \$627,000 salary, too much for a third-stringer.

Brigham Young's John Walsh came out early thinking he would be a first-round choice and wound up a seventh-rounder of the Bengals.

To Bill Walsh, all of these guys are potentially good NFL quarterbacks, especially if they get "in the right kind of system." That system, of course, is Walsh's. That puts Stenstrom ahead of the game, because Walsh coached him at Stanford.

Walsh thinks highly of Stenstrom and thinks he could stick around Chicago "eight or 10 years," provided they keep the current Walsh-like system taught by Ron Turner.

"He maybe won't be the starter—you never know that—but he's certainly a value," Walsh said.

This is how Walsh described him:

"He is as mechanically sound as anyone I've worked with or seen. He emulates (Joe) Montana with his movement, and, of course, that's basically how I teach it. Of course, I learned a lot from Joe, too. Steve's mechanics are right on the line with Joe, so when you watch him, you'll notice that.

"Consequently, he can time his passes beautifully. He can anticipate, he can get the ball off quickly, he can go to all of his receivers very quickly. He's got great touch. He's got touch like Montana, where he can throw the ball over a defender and drop it in between people.

"He can throw deep very well. His arm is probably a B-minus in the NFL, better than average, but not a Marino or Bradshaw arm. He may have a little

stronger arm than McMahon, but he's right in that category. Montana would be a B so it's not as though he's got a weak arm."

Stenstrom's mechanical comparison does not extend to Montana's running ability or his athleticism.

"I'm talking about his footwork," Walsh said. "It's almost perfect—the length of his step, the quickness of his step, the bounce, the throw, the maneuvering in the pocket. All of that is as good as you get."

Stenstrom had a reputation for standing in the pocket and getting killed.

"He's more mobile in the pocket than he once was," Walsh said. "He can avoid the inside rush. Running, he'll just be very average, but he'll run at the right time. He'll make six yards and Steve Young will make 60 yards on the same play. In a sense, it helps him because he'll stay in the pocket and go to alternate receivers.

"He knows the system as well as anybody. He knows the system as well as Montana, so that will really help there in Chicago."

There are more than economic reasons for lasting until the fourth round, of course.

"He's not going to be considered a great athlete," Walsh said. "He's a good one, but he's not in the gifted athlete category. How many really are?"

Don Pierson covers the Bears and the NFL for the Chicago Tribune.

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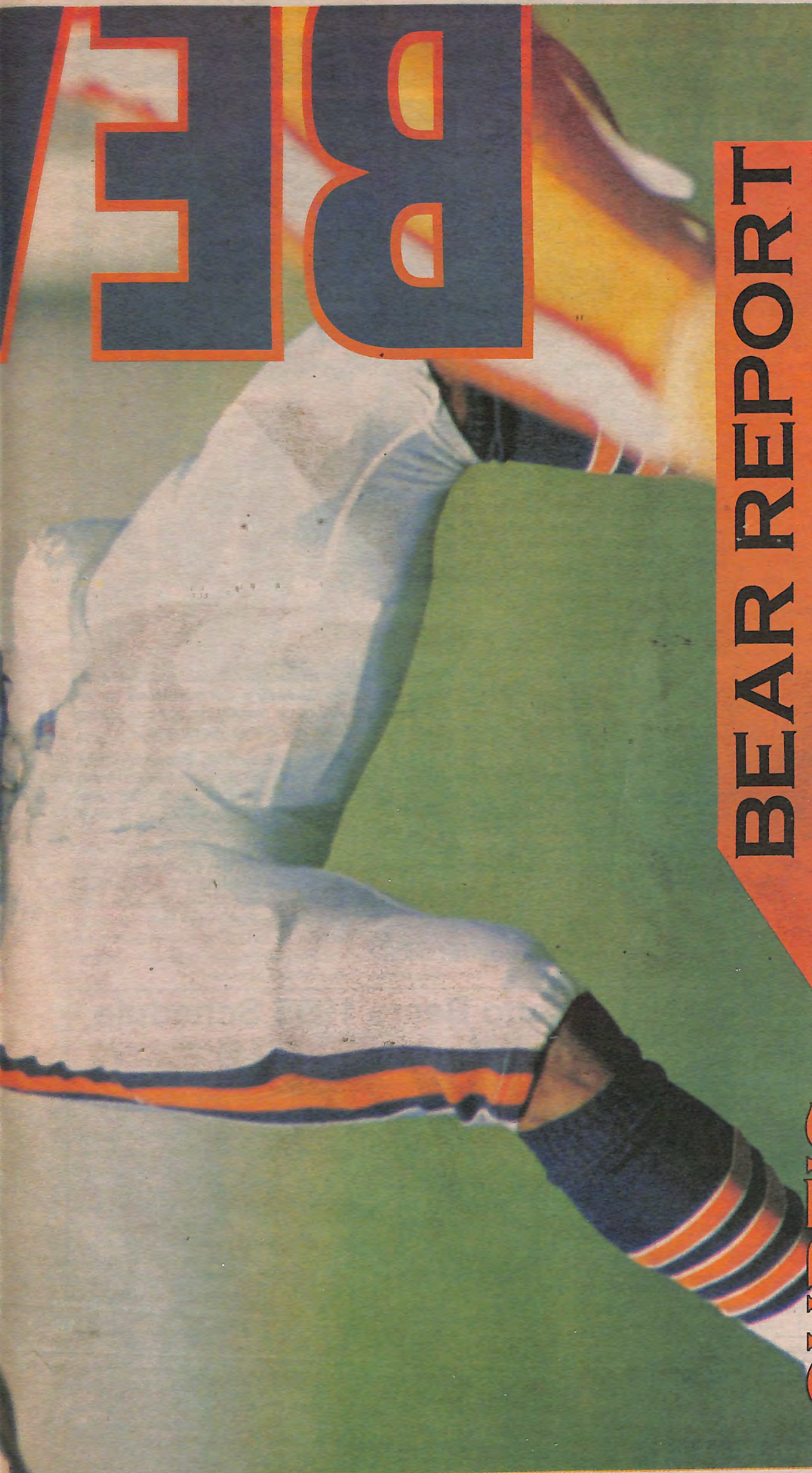
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EXTRA POINTS

Gedney adjusts to limited role

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

Chris Gedney doesn't need to buy a volatile stock or ride a roller coaster to experience dramatic ups and downs.

The Bears' tight end has shown flashes of brilliance during his three-year career, but injuries and illness have hampered his effectiveness. Gedney was seemingly approaching the cusp of greatness last year when a broken leg ended his season in mid-October. This year, the former Syracuse star has just about vanished from the offense.

While Gedney was slowed by leg injuries and the flu during the preseason, veteran **Keith Jennings** performed with consistency and won the starting position. Jennings, a superior blocker, shows no signs of relinquishing the job.

"It's been a difficult adjustment," Gedney admitted. "Keith's out there because he deserves to be. He had a great training camp and he's doing well blocking. But it's frustrating."

After frequently utilizing their tight ends last season, the position has been virtually ignored so far in 1995. Jennings, Gedney and **Ryan Wetnight** had combined to catch only six passes for 42

yards through the first three games of the season. Jennings and Wetnight each had three receptions, while Gedney's only catch came against Tampa Bay.

Gedney caught 13 passes for 157 yards and three touchdowns in seven games last season. Accepting his present role as a seldom-used part rather than a focal part of the offense has been tough on the competitive tight end.

"At the beginning I think it was a little bit of a mental letdown on my part," Gedney said. "But I realize that the success I had last year I can have again. It's just a matter of getting in there and being able to do it. But I need to realize that I have done it before and I have experience. It's just the game plan isn't suited right now for me."

Although he has yet to contribute much on offense, Gedney is holding for all of **Kevin Butler's** kicks for the first time in his NFL career. And it seems like the duo has worked together forever; Butler was perfect on six field goal attempts and eight extra points through three games.

Gedney is also the long-snapper on punts, something he has previously done in the NFL.

"It's just another way to hopefully

stick around in the league a couple more years and just to help out when I'm not helping out at tight end," Gedney said.

ACHES & PAINS: The NFC Central's bye week came at a perfect time for the wounded Bears. Chicago listed 11 players on last week's injury report for Sunday's game at St. Louis.

FB **Raymont Harris** (collarbone) and LB **Sean Harris** (hamstring) were out; S **John Mangum** (leg) was doubtful; DE **Al Fontenot** (shoulder), G **Todd Perry** (leg), Wetnight (quad), RB **Lewis Tillman** (ankle), RB **Robert Green** (ankle) and S **Mark Carrier** (knee) were questionable; and LB **Ron Cox** (neck) and Jennings (toe) were probable.

Mangum is expected to return Oct. 8 versus Carolina.

Perry, suffering from an infection in his leg, remained hospitalized early last week as a precautionary measure to guard against blood clots forming.

Wetnight took a helmet on his leg in the Tampa game and was held out of practice Wednesday but was expected to play at St. Louis.

Carrier twisted his knee in the first quarter against Tampa but finished that game. He was also held out of Wednesday's practice but was expected to play against the Rams.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Many Bear players were still recuperating from



Tight end Chris Gedney's contributions so far this season have been mainly on special teams. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

the heat and humidity that ravaged their bodies in Tampa Bay. Tackle **Andy Heck** lost 10 pounds during the game, and others felt miserable on the sidelines and in the locker room.

"That was brutal," said linebacker **Joe Cain**. "That was the worst I've ever felt in a football game since I've been playing. And it's not like we played a hundred plays, either. I think they put something in the food at the hotel. I think there was some other ugliness going on besides the heat and humidity."

Chicago Bears 1995 Schedule

PRESEASON

Date	Opponent	Bears	Opp.
Fri., Aug. 4	CAROLINA PANTHERS	18	15
Mon., Aug. 14	at Cleveland Browns	13	55
Sun., Aug. 20	ARIZONA CARDINALS	16	17
Thurs., Aug. 24	at Indianapolis Colts	7	29

REGULAR SEASON

Date	Opponent	Bears	Opp.
Sun., Sept. 3	MINNESOTA VIKINGS	31	14
Mon., Sept. 11	GREEN BAY PACKERS	24	27
Sun., Sept. 17	at Tampa Bay Buccaneers	25	6
Sun., Sept. 24	at St. Louis Rams	34	28
Sun., Oct. 1	Bye Week		
Sun., Oct. 8	CAROLINA PANTHERS	Noon	FOX
Sun., Oct. 15	at Jacksonville Jaguars	Noon	FOX
Sun., Oct. 22	HOUSTON OILERS	Noon	NBC
Mon., Oct. 30	at Minnesota Vikings	8:00 p.m.	ABC
Sun., Nov. 5	PITTSBURGH STEELERS	3:00 p.m.	NBC
Sun., Nov. 12	at Green Bay Packers	Noon	FOX
Sun., Nov. 19	DETROIT LIONS	Noon	FOX
Sun., Nov. 26	at New York Giants	Noon	FOX
Mon., Dec. 4	at Detroit Lions	8:00 p.m.	ABC
Sun., Dec. 10	at Cincinnati Bengals	Noon	FOX
Sun., Dec. 17	TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS	Noon	FOX
Sun., Dec. 24	PHILADELPHIA EAGLES	Noon	FOX

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Woolford

From page 3

loss at Washington, Woolford was publicly undressed by Mike Ditka. The volatile head coach proclaimed that he didn't think Woolford could cover anybody and that the Bears wouldn't win another game all season. Of course, only one of Ditka's statements turned out to be true; the Bears lost their final four games to finish 6-10.

Over the next few years Woolford developed into one of the game's top corners. He was voted to the Pro Bowl following the 1993 season after compiling 101 tackles and leading the Bears with 22 passes defended.

Those numbers are proof of his rare versatility. Woolford is a cornerback who hits like a safety; one of the few corners in the NFL who possesses a combination of coverage and tackling skills.

"A lot of people don't understand that some corners can only cover, and some corners can't tackle," Woolford said. "There are few who can cover and tackle at the same time. But people should learn to categorize them."

"That's where I think I fit in with the people that are talked about all the time, like the Rod Woodsons. I can tackle and I can cover and, like I said, you usually don't get too many corners that can do that."

Woolford intercepted two passes in the Bears' first three games this season to raise his career mark to 24. On the flip side, Woolford has also been burned for a 99-yard touchdown pass on national television.

"The toughest thing is knowing that you could be the goat one week and you could be the hero the next," Woolford said. "You're on an island all the time by yourself. You get a little help now and then, but most of the time you're out there it's you against the receiver and the quarterback, and it's a tough job on a person."

"It made me into a better person, getting criticized when you don't do so good and getting the high fives and the praise when you do do good. But that comes with the territory. I've learned to take both sides as they come."

Woolford's aggressive mentality was never more evident than against the Green Bay Packers. Not long after allowing the 99-yard bomb, he intercepted a Brett Favre pass deep in Green Bay territory, setting up a touchdown run by Rashaan Salaam on the next play.

"It's going to happen to everybody once in a while," Woolford said of getting burned. "You've just got to work hard and make plays. If you continue to make plays, they keep the ball on the other side of the field."

"Playing cornerback in the NFL, you've got to have a short memory. Because if you don't, you're going to be in trouble. That's when a team is going to come at you and pick on you, and they're going to do it the entire season. You've got to fight back. If somebody punches you in the face, you've got to punch them back."

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But even the Cowboys can't justify high price

Being disappointed in Bears management for resisting the temptation to pursue Deion Sanders is like being disappointed in a dinner mate who resists the temptation to order a 5,000 calorie, \$25 dessert.

It is not what they need.

In not going after Sanders, the Bears did what they were supposed to do. It was the smart choice.

Even though cornerback is not a need for the Bears, Sanders would have made the Bears a better team. This can't be argued. But he wouldn't have justified his salary, and there are other ways the Bears could spend the money that would be more prudent.

That isn't to say the Bears should save their extra \$2 million in salary cap space. That \$2 million could be put to good use, much better use than Sanders.

"If you put him in a situation with a lot of other things in place, maybe he'll make the difference," Bears personnel director Rod Graves said. "For that kind of commitment, you'd have to be relatively sure he could take us to the Super Bowl. The Chicago Bears are not far

enough along. In another year or two if a similar situation presented itself, we'd probably have to think long and hard about it."

Bears management discussed making a run at Sanders, but decided against it.

"When you look at Deion's performance at Atlanta, I don't know that he was any better or worse as a player, but his effect on that team was not that significant," Graves said. "We're probably more in line with Atlanta than San Francisco or Dallas."

Even the Cowboys can't justify what they'll be paying Sanders.

The cornerback/receiver/return man would have been a great acquisition at a price that was in line with what the other top cornerbacks in the league are making. Giving Sanders \$14 million over four years would have made him the highest paid cornerback in football and it would have been an equitable deal, even though Rod Woodson is the superior player.

No cornerback, especially a part-time one, could possibly be worth \$35 million over seven years, which is what Sanders' contract calls for.

Don't get swept up in the folly that signing Sanders is an automatic precursor to winning a championship. Between his two sports, he has played for five teams that did not win championships in 11 pro seasons (including the San Francisco

Giants this year) and only one that did.

While signing Sanders might help the Cowboys win one Super Bowl, ultimately this move will have the reverse effect that the Herschel Walker trade had on the Cowboys. Trading Walker for five players, a first round pick and six conditional picks insured the Cowboys would be a Super Bowl contender for years; having Sanders taking up an inordinate amount of salary cap space will keep the Cowboys out of contention for years.

This is the last gasp for the Cowboys. In the off-season 17 Cowboys, including six defensive starters, will become free agents. If the salary cap next year is \$40 million as expected, the Cowboys will have \$100,000 available to retain every unsigned player and any other free agents because 35 Cowboys are under contract to take up \$39.9 million of cap space next year.

And then there is the possibility of Sanders deciding he doesn't want to play football anymore, something he has made veiled threats about in the past. If Sanders walks away or suffers a career ending injury, the unpaid portion of his \$13 million signing bonus would count against the Cowboys' salary cap the next year.

There also is the possibility the Cowboys might not want him at some point. But they're stuck with him for at



Deion Sanders will have a hard time proving that any player is worth the \$35 million he's due to receive from the Dallas Cowboys.

least five years (the last two years of the contract probably will be voided). Sanders will wear down quickly from the stress of playing two sports all his life. He's probably not a guy who's going to be able to maintain his level of play when he's 30. And he's already 28.

To the Cowboys Sanders will bring incredible coverage skills, interceptions, unparalleled football speed and leadership. But he'll bring something else.

Dissension.

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You are Emmitt Smith. You had to fight Jones for every cent in your contract and sit out for two games in the 1993 season after leading the NFL in rushing twice and being the linchpin for a team that won the Super Bowl. How do you feel about Sanders' contract averaging \$1.6 million more per year than your own?

You are Kevin Williams. You have paid your dues for three seasons and helped the Cowboys win a Super Bowl. You have finally become a starting receiver. How do you feel about giving up receptions and touchdowns to a player who not only didn't go through training camp, but has taken fewer practice repetitions at your position in his life than you have in some practices?

You are Troy Aikman. You have heard Jones tell you he could not afford valued teammates such as Alvin Harper, Mark Stepnoski, Kevin Gogan and Ken Norton. How do you feel, really feel, about Jones suddenly being able to accommodate the most overpaid player in football?

Ultimately, Deion Sanders will be more of a problem to the Cowboys than he'll be to Jerry Rice. Be glad he is not a Bear.

Don Pompei covers the Bears and the NFL for the Chicago Sun-Times.

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**Chicago
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Injuries to backs infectious

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

First it was Green Bay.
Then Tampa Bay.

Now it's the "sick bay" that most concerns Dave Wannstedt.

The Bears prepared for Sunday's game in St. Louis last week with their top three running backs from a year ago sidelined by injuries. Fullback Raymont Harris is out indefinitely with a broken collarbone, while tailbacks Lewis Tillman and Robert Green are recovering from ankle injuries.

Tillman and Green were both listed as questionable on last Wednesday's injury report, but neither was expected to play. As a result, rookie first-round draft pick Rashaan Salaam earned his first pro start against the Rams.

The starting assignment seemingly wasn't much of a departure from previous duties for Salaam, who entered the Week 4 game with 41 carries, more than Green (27) and Tillman (12) combined.

"He's a tremendously gifted athlete," center Jerry Fontenot said of Salaam. "We know that as long as we give Rashaan a space to run in, he's going to hit the hole running a hundred miles an hour and he'll make good things happen."

Salaam rushed for 131 yards in the

Bears' first three games on a mixture of inside and outside runs. With him in the lineup, the Bears have already utilized more outside pitch plays than they did all of last season.

"His speed adds a wrinkle to our offense," Fontenot said, "and the fact that he can get around the corner poses defenses a different threat outside."

Heading into St. Louis, the one area of Salaam's game that had yet to be tested was his pass receiving ability. Although no passes had been thrown in Salaam's direction during the first three games of the season, Wannstedt was unconcerned.

"Rashaan will catch the ball fine, and he'll be involved more in the offense," Wannstedt promised.

With tailbacks Tillman and Green ailing, the Bears considered re-signing Darrell Thompson, who was waived in training camp. For now, however, they'll stick with their current group.

Wannstedt prepared for the Rams game by shifting Anthony Johnson from fullback to tailback to back-up Salaam. Johnson was also expected to replace Green as the third down back. The coach also announced that rookie fullback Mike Faulkerson would be activated from the practice squad to back-up starter Tony Carter, necessitating a roster move prior to the game.

THE SACK MAN: Richard Dent, who officially signed a one-year contract with the Bears on Monday, returned to the practice field for the first time two days later. Despite having offseason knee surgery, Dent was not limited at all in drills.

The club's all-time sack leader is slated to make his 1995 debut as a pass rusher in the nickel defense Oct. 8 when the Bears host the Carolina Panthers.

"Richard looked good," Wannstedt said. "I was surprised. We were going to ease him into it. I wasn't really sure how much he would do his first day in pads, but he jumped in there and took all the scout team work and did all the individual stuff. He took as many snaps as everybody else. It was real encouraging."

"I know the knee's going to be okay, but mentally you've got to get everything working again," Dent said.

Dent, who signed with the San Francisco 49ers last year after 11 seasons with the Bears, walked off the field after practice with fellow defensive ends Alonzo Spellman and Al Fontenot.

"We were just talking about the game plan and some of the personnel (the Rams) have," Dent said. "I'm just help-

ing some of the guys work on their stances and work to make themselves better."

Dent, whose 124.5 sacks is tops in team history, is ecstatic to be back with the Bears.

"I feel happy to be back home wearing a Bears uniform," he said.

BRUISING BETTIS: After limiting elusive Tampa Bay running back Errict Rhett to 66 yards on 19 carries in a 25-6 win, the Bears defense spent last week preparing for Jerome Bettis, the Rams' bruising 243-pound back. Bettis, who entered the game with 154 yards on 46 carries, averaged just 3.2 yards per carry last season after averaging 4.9 as a rookie in 1993.

"Last year he was kind of fat. He's in better shape by far," said Bears linebacker Joe Cain. "This year he's svelte, and he looks like he's running the ball better, that's for sure."

"Errict Rhett is powerful for his size, but Bettis has got power and he's huge. When you hit him, there's a lot of impact. You've just got to try to get him down any way you can; just grab anything, except his facemask."

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GAME PREVIEW

Panthers to provide next test

By David Marran
Bear Report Correspondent

The easiest win or the most embarrassing loss ever.

Those are the two scenarios facing the Bears as they prepare to host the expansion Carolina Panthers Oct. 8 at Soldier Field after enjoying their bye week.

The established Bears should have no problem brushing aside the fledgling Panthers, but odds are Carolina will win sometime this season.

The Panthers are led by rookie quarterback Kerry Collins and pass rushers Lamar Lathon and Darion Connor.

The Bears have seen Carolina before but that game hardly matters now. The Bears topped the Panthers 18-15 Aug. 4 in the exhibition opener for Chicago.

How long ago was that game and how insignificant does it seem now? Get this: Shane Matthews rallied the Bears to a fourth quarter win and Carolina was trying to work running back Barry Foster into its offense.

Both players have since been released.

The last time the Bears played an expansion team was in 1976 when they pounded the Seahawks in Seattle 34-7.

This game against Carolina begins a stretch where the Bears could make some hay. Following the game with the Panthers, the Bears play at Jacksonville and then host Houston before running into the meat part of their schedule.

KEY MATCHUPS

• JIM FLANIGAN vs. BLAKE BROCKERMEYER

Bears' defensive tackle Jim Flanigan made the most of his increased playing time in the season's first three weeks. The Notre Damer was second in the NFC with four sacks in three games.

Flanigan and his pals on the line have the edge in experience over Carolina tackle Blake Brockermeyer and the Panther offensive line. The Panthers starting front five enters the Bear game with just 29 NFL starts among them.

The Panthers are hoping that Brockermeyer, a rookie, is their rock on

the offensive line for many years to come. For now, though, Brockermeyer and the line are having their problems. The Panthers allowed an NFC-high 14 sacks through the first three games.

• ERIK KRAMER vs. BRETT MAXIE

Bear quarterback Erik Kramer will have to keep an eye on the opportunistic Brett Maxie, who had three takeaways in the season's first three weeks.

The free safety emerged as the Panthers' top defensive player through the season's first three weeks. Maxie, an 11-year veteran out of Texas Southern, was tied for the NFC lead with two interceptions. The 33-year old Maxie returned one of those picks 49 yards.

Maxie also emerged as the Panthers' top tackler during the team's 0-3 start. He logged 22 tackles in the first three weeks along with four passes-defended and one fumble recovery.

• DONNELL WOOLFORD vs. MARK CARRIER

As usual, the assignment of covering the opponents' most dangerous receiver will fall to Pro Bowl cornerback Donnell Woolford.

This week, Woolford will line-up across from Mark Carrier, a cousin of Bears safety Mark Carrier. Woolford should know Carrier from his days as a Tampa Bay Buccaneer.

Carrier was the Panthers most consistent offensive threat during the seasons' first three weeks. The Nicholls State product caught 11 passes for 156 yards through the first three weeks.

Complementing Carrier is veteran Willie Green, who also had 11 catches and one touchdown in the Panthers' first three games.

WHAT TO WATCH

Recently signed Richard Dent, the Bears' all-time sack leader, is expected to make his '95 debut against the Panthers.

Dent, who played 11 seasons with the Bears before signing with the 49ers last year, is expected to rush from the end position in the Bears' nickel defense.



Kerry Collins



Lamar Lathon



Darion Connor

WHEN THE BEARS HAVE THE BALL

RCB

21 Smith
24 Haller
27 Lofton

FS

39 Maxie
37 Cota
29 Plier

SS

25 McDowell
40 Terrell

LCB

22 McKyer
38 Poole
33 By'not'e

RLB

54 Bailey
59 Hill

MLB

51 Mills
53 Butcher

LLB

57 Lathon
55 Faryniarz

RE

98 Williams
96 King

NT

71 Kragen
90 Zgonina

LE

93 Fox
92 Price
95 Thomas

WR

81 Graham
87 Primus

LT

64 Heck
70 Auzenne
72 Adams

LG

75 Perry
65 Pilgrim
63 Burger

C

67 Fontenot
58 Leeuwenberg
63 Burger

RG

58 Leeuwenberg
76 Spears

RT

71 Williams
70 Auzenne
72 Adams

TE

85 Jennings
89 Wetrnight

QB

12 Kramer
4 Walsh
18 Stenstrom

RB

27 Tillman
22 Green
31 Salaam

FB

30 Carter
25 Johnson
29 Harris (inj.)

WR

80 Conway
83 Timpson

WHEN THE PANTHERS HAVE THE BALL

RCB

39 Lincoln
35 Burton

FS

20 Carrier
36 Marshall

SS

23 Carter
26 Mangum
37 Eilers

LCB

21 Woolford
24 Minifield
32 Joseph

OLB

55 Smith
91 Baker
52 Bass

MLB

59 Cain
92 Minter

OLB

54 Cox
57 Harris

RE

94 Thierry
96 Fontenot
95 Dent

RT

97 Zorich
99 Flanigan

LT

98 Simpson
99 Flanigan
78 Riley

LE

90 Spellman
96 Fontenot
74 Hawkins

WR

86 Green
82 Beebe
81 Wiggins

LT

68 Brockermeyer
62 Dennis

LG

60 Peterson
65 Garcia

C

64 Whitley
65 Garcia

RG

52 Elliott
79 Love
78 Martin

RT

74 Graham
62 Dennis

TE

88 Metzelaars
87 Campbell
85 Tillman

HB

20 Moore
23 Baldwin
34 Workman

QB

14 Reich
10 Trudeau
12 Collins

FB

44 Christian
30 Griffith

WR

83 Carrier
84 Gullford
80 Stone

Facts and Figures

Kickoff: Noon central time, Sunday, Oct. 8.

Site: Soldier Field, Chicago, Illinois.

Capacity: 66,944

Playing surface: Natural grass.

Last meeting: Bears won 18-15 on Aug. 4, 1995 in preseason opener. Shane Matthews, who has since been released, rallied the Bears from a 15-7 deficit. Starter Erik Kramer, meanwhile, was booed unmercifully by the Soldier Field crowd.

Series history: This is the first regular season meeting between the two clubs.

Radio-TV coverage: The game will be televised regionally by the Fox Network. WGN Radio and the Bears Radio Network also will carry the game live. See Sept. 23 Bear Report for stations.



Carolina QB Kerry Collins

TALE OF THE TAPE

Category	Bears	Panthers
OFFENSE RANK	16th	28th
Rushing	10th	28th
Passing	18th	27th
DEFENSE RANK	20th	23rd
vs. Run	13th	24th
vs. Pass	22nd	19th
TAKEAWAYS	9	6
GIVEAWAYS	5	9
TO Differential	+4	-3
Third downs (%)	31.4	19.1
TDs inside 20 (%)	50.0	33.3
Avg. poss. time	27:58	28:57



CAROLINA PANTHERS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
4	John Kasay	K	5-10	198	26	5	Georgia
6	Tommy Barnhardt	P	6-2	218	32	9	North Carolina
10	Jack Trudeau	QB	6-3	220	33	10	Illinois
12	Kerry Collins	QB	6-5	240	22	R	Penn State
14	Frank Reich	QB	6-4	210	34	11	Maryland
20	Derrick Moore	RB	6-1	227	27	4	NE Oklahoma St.
21	Rod Smith	CB	5-11	194	25	4	Notre Dame
22	Tim McKyer	CB	6-0	184	32	10	Texas-Arlington
23	Randy Baldwin	RB	5-10	220	28	5	Mississippi
24	Alan Haller	CB	5-11	185	25	3	Michigan St.
25	Bubba McDowell	SS	6-1	206	28	7	Miami (FL)
27	Steve Lofton	CB	5-9	177	26	4	Texas A&M
29	Damon Pleri	S	6-0	186	25	1	San Diego State
30	Howard Griffith	FB	6-0	240	27	3	Illinois
33	Butler By'not'e	RB	5-9	190	22	2	Ohio State
34	Vince Workman	RB	5-10	205	27	7	Ohio State
37	Chad Cota	S	6-1	195	24	R	Oregon
38	Tyrone Poole	CB	5-8	188	23	R	Fort Valley State
39	Brett Maxie	S	6-2	210	33	11	Texas Southern
40	Pat Terrell	SS	6-2	210	27	6	Notre Dame
44	Bob Christian	RB	5-10	230	26	3	Northwestern
51	Sam Mills	LB	5-9	232	36	10	Montclair St.
52	Matt Elliott	C/G	6-3	295	26	3	Michigan
53	Paul Butcher	LB	6-0	233	31	9	Wayne State
54	Carlton Bailey	LB	6-3	242	30	8	North Carolina
55	Brett Faryniarz	LB	6-3	230	30	7	San Diego State
56	Darion Conner	LB	6-2	250	28	6	Jackson State
57	Lamar Lathon	LB	6-3	260	27	6	Houston
59	Travis Hill	LB	6-2	240	25	3	Nebraska
60	Andrew Peterson	G	6-5	308	23	R	Washington
62	Mark Dennis	T	6-6	288	30	9	Illinois
63	Mark Rodenhauser	C	6-5	280	34	8	Illinois State
64	Curtis Whitley	C	6-1	295	26	3	Clemson
65	Frank Garcia	C	6-1	295	23	R	Washington
68	Blake Brockermeyer	T	6-4	300	22	R	Texas
71	Greg Kragen	NT	6-3	267	33	11	Utah State
74	Derrick Graham	T	6-4	315	28	6	Appalachian St.
79	Sean Love	G	6-3	304	27	3	Penn St.
80	Dwight Stone	WR	6-0	195	31	9	Mid. Tenn. St.
81	Brian Wiggins	WR	5-11	185	27	1	Texas Southern
82	Don Beebe	WR	5-11	185	30	7	Chadron State
83	Mark Carrier	WR	6-0	186	29	9	Nicholls State
84	Eric Guliford	WR	5-8	173	25	3	Arizona State
85	Lawyer Tillman	TE	6-5	252	29	6	Auburn
86	Willie Green	WR	6-4	185	29	5	Mississippi
87	Mathew Campbell	TE	6-4	270	23	1	South Carolina
88	Pete Metzelaars	TE	6-7	250	35	14	Wabash
90	Jeff Zgonina	DL	6-1	284	25	3	Purdue
92	Shawn Price	DE	6-5	275	25	3	Pacific
93	Mike Fox	DE	6-8	295	28	6	West Virginia
95	Mark Thomas	DE	6-5	275	26	4	NC State
96	Shawn King	DE	6-3	278	23	R	NE Louisiana
98	Gerald Williams	DE	6-3	290	32	10	Auburn



CHICAGO BEARS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
4	Steve Walsh	QB	6-3	200	28	7	Miami-Florida
6	Kevin Butler	K	6-1	205	33	11	Georgia
12	Erik Kramer	QB	6-1	200	30	6	North Carolina St.
16	Todd Sauerbrun	P	5-10	206	24	R	West Virginia
18	Steve Stenstrom	QB	6-2	200	23	R	Stanford
20	Mark Carrier	S	6-1	190	27	6	USC
21	Donnell Woolford	CB	5-9	188	28	7	Clemson
22	Robert Green	RB	5-8	212	24	4	William & Mary
23	Marty Carter	S	6-1	200	25	5	Middle Tennessee St.
24	Kevin Miniefield	DB	5-9	180	25	3	Arizona State
25	Anthony Johnson	FB	6-0	222	27	6	Notre Dame
26	John Mangum	S	5-10	192	28	6	Alabama
27	Lewis Tillman	RB	6-0	204	29	7	Jackson State
29	Raymont Harris	RB	6-0	225	24	2	Ohio State
30	Tony Carter	FB	5-11	216	23	2	Minnesota
31	Rashaan Salaam	RB	6-1	228	20	R	Colorado
32	Dwayne Joseph	CB	5-9	188	23	1	Syracuse
35	James Burton	CB	5-9	181	24	2	Fresno State
36	Anthony Marshall	S	6-1	205	24	1	LSU
37	Pat Eilers	S	5-11	197	29	5	Notre Dame
39	Jeremy Lincoln	CB	5-10	180	26	4	Tennessee
52	Robert Bass	LB	6-1	239	24	2	Miami
54	Ron Cox	LB	6-2	235	27	6	Fresno State
55	Vinson Smith	LB	6-2	247	30	9	East Carolina
57	Sean Harris	LB	6-3	244	23	R	Arizona
58	Jay Leeuwenburg	G/C	6-3	290	26	4	Colorado
59	Joe Cain	LB	6-1	237	30	7	Oregon Tech
63	Todd Burger	G	6-3	296	25	2	Penn State
64	Andy Heck	T	6-6	296	28	7	Notre Dame
65	Evan Pilgrim	G	6-4	298	23	R	BYU
67	Jerry Fontenot	C	6-3	285	28	7	Texas A & M
70	Troy Auzenne	T	6-7	300	26	4	California
71	James Williams	T	6-7	335	26	5	Cheyney State (PA)
72	Scott Adams	OL	6-5	293	28	5	Georgia
75	Todd Perry	G	6-5	310	24	3	Kentucky
76	Marcus Spears	G/T	6-4	300	23	2	NW Louisiana St.
78	Pat Riley	DE	6-5	278	23	R	Miami-FL
80	Curtis Conway	WR/KR	6-0	193	24	3	USC
81	Jeff Graham	WR	6-2	196	26	5	Ohio State
83	Michael Timpson	WR	5-10	180	28	7	Penn State
84	Chris Gedney	TE	6-5	265	25	3	Syracuse
85	Keith Jennings	TE	6-4	270	29	6	Clemson
87	Greg Primus	WR	5-11	190	24	1	Colorado State
89	Ryan Wetnight	TE	6-2	235	24	3	Stanford
90	Alonzo Spellman	DE	6-4	285	22	4	Ohio State
91	Myron Baker	LB	6-1	228	24	3	Louisiana Tech
92	Barry Minter	MLB	6-2	239	25	3	Tulsa
94	John Thierry	DE	6-4	260	23	2	Alcorn State (MS)
95	Richard Dent	DE	6-5	265	34	13	Tennessee State
96	Al Fontenot	DE	6-4	272	24	3	Baylor
97	Chris Zorich	DT	6-1	277	26	5	Notre Dame
98	Carl Simpson	DT	6-2	285	25	3	Florida State
99	Jim Flanigan	DT	6-2	280	24	2	Notre Dame
Practice squad							
15	Fabien Bowens	WR	5-11	180	23	R	Western Illinois
69	Octus Polk	G	6-3	340	23	R	Stephen F. Austin
86	Mill Coleman	WR	5-9	175	23	R	Michigan State
93	Ervin Collier	DT	6-3	290	24	1	Florida A & M
Injured Reserve (Out for season)							
60	Darwin Ireland	LB	5-11	240	24	1	Arkansas
68	Carl Reeves	DE	6-4	241	23	R	North Carolina St.
82	Jack Jackson	WR	5-8	171	22	R	Florida
Reserve/Physically Unable to Perform (Out for six weeks)							
48	Kenny Gales	CB	5-11	173	23	R	Wisconsin

*Ages as of opening day (Sept. 3, 1995)

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



An NFL credit union is now the center of attention for Mike Pyle.

Mike Pyle 1961-69

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

Mike Pyle is working on a new concept that NFL players can bank on.

The former Bears center is one of the instrumental figures in a group preparing to open a credit union specifically for current and former NFL players and their families. The credit union would be based in Cincinnati and would serve as a centralized full-service financial institution for the players.

"After interviewing several players, I saw a real need for financial assistance," Pyle said. "Players want to have a say about their money and have some control over it."

"Why bank in Cincinnati? Say you play for the Bears and you sign with Seattle the next year. With the credit union, you don't have to change banks. The credit union will provide security, trust and knowledge for the players."

Pyle said the NFL Players Association has already given its blessing, and the National Credit Union Association will decide whether to approve the concept in November. Pyle is excited about the possibilities.

"This challenge has given me a tremendous passion to succeed," he said. "I'm as highly motivated with this as I've been in any time in my life."

Pyle, who joined the Bears as a seventh round draft pick in 1961, played nine seasons with his hometown team. After attending New Trier High School in suburban Winnetka, he

enrolled at Yale University. Pyle played college football but never dreamed he would earn a living as a football player.

"I never thought about playing pro ball," he said. "If I had, I never would have went to Yale. But when my hometown team drafted me, it was like I died and went to heaven. And I stayed around until they ran me off."

Pyle lives in Winnetka with his wife of 11 years, Candy. He has two children from a previous marriage: Samantha, 25, and Cameron, 23. Candy also has two kids from a previous marriage: Holly, a senior at Barat College in Lake Forest, and Scott, a sophomore at New York University.

Since retiring from football after a few games with the New Orleans Saints in 1970, Pyle has been involved in a wide variety of endeavors. He spent five years as a senior broker for a top investment banking firm. Later he served as host for a bevy of television and radio programs and was involved in other sports marketing projects.

He then became a commercial real estate broker, and followed that by spending two years as Yale's corporate development director. He most recently spent seven years in the banking business before launching the credit union venture over a year ago.

"I've always been a salesman in whatever I've done," Pyle said. "And when you're a salesman, you have to have a passion for your product. You can't go through the motions when you're dealing with the public."

Make a splash in Jacksonville when the Jaguars meet the Bears

October 13-14-15 head to the beach front with Bear Report for a fun-filled weekend

Friday, October 13, 1995

Pep Rally 4-7 p.m., Comfort Inn Oceanfront. Hosted by Kokomo's Oceanfront Bar & Deck and Comfort Inn Oceanfront. Enjoy your favorite drinks at special prices. Beer, bratwurst and entertainment under the stars.

7:00 p.m.-12:00 Mid. Going to the dogs **Greyhound Racing** at St. Johns Greyhound Park. \$2.00/person.

Transportation provided from area hotels.

Saturday, October 14, 1995

Pub Crawl 12-6 p.m.

7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Take up **Deep Sea Fishing**, board the Miss Mayport for a deep sea hunt for grouper, snapper and other Atlantic Ocean dwellers. Call 904-246-7575. \$35.00/person.

6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Head over to the Oceanfront Seawalk Pavilion and Boardwalk for a **Beach Rally**. Bear and Jaguar fans alike will enjoy live music, food and beverages on the beaches. Free Admission.

Sunday, October 15, 1995

12:00 noon-6:00 p.m. **Pre Game Party**. Sea Walk Pavilion. Live music game collectables. Shuttle service provided between area hotels to the Pre-Game party. Need a ride to the game? Round trip ride to the Bear/Jaguar game for \$5.00 from the Park and Ride Lot.



For more information on Jacksonville's special weekend events call: 1-904-247-0740 or 1-800-774-7225



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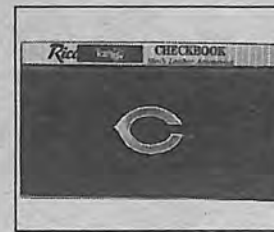
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CENTRAL ISSUES

By David Marran



Detroit Lions

Running back Barry Sanders' sure-handed streak came to an end in the Lions' surprising 20-17 loss to Arizona in Week 3.

Sanders fumbled twice in the final five minutes as Buddy Ryan's Cardinals scored two touchdowns in the fourth quarter to win.

Sanders' miscues ended his streak of 803 consecutive carries without a fumble. Prior to the Cardinals' game, the last time Sanders fumbled was Dec. 6, 1992 in a game against the Green Bay Packers at Milwaukee County Stadium.

"When I run, I expect to hold on to the ball," Sanders said. "Those things are going to happen (but) I definitely could have picked a better time, but I don't always make those decisions."

The fumbles ruined a day in which Sanders gained 147 yards on 24 carries and scored a touchdown.

NOT PLEASED: Lions coach Wayne Fontes did not mince any words after the Lions' 0-3 start.

"This is the lowest I've been in my entire coaching career," Fontes said.

Fontes was not bothered by the "Wayne Must Go" chants that came from the stands at the Silverdome during the Arizona loss.

"I've overcome it before," Fontes said. "That's the nature of the job. I've heard that tune for seven years and one day they will run out of quarters."

Fontes is hoping fans can remain patient through the early part of the season. The toughest part of the Lions' schedule is in September and October.

"Our schedule is very, very difficult early and hopefully we'll be in the pack at the end of the year," Fontes said.



Green Bay Packers

Wide receiver Robert Brooks is doing his best Sterling Sharpe impression.

Brooks is the player the Packers are counting on to replace Sharpe, who was released prior to the season because of complications from a neck injury.

Through the first four weeks of the season, Brooks was on a pace to make people stop asking him about Sharpe.

Brooks caught five passes including a touchdown in the Packers' Week 4 win over the New York Giants at Lambeau Field. The performance upped his total to 21 which figures out to exactly match Sharpe's 1993 single-season club record of 112.

RECORD QB: Quarterback Brett Favre entered Week 5 one game from tying a record held by Johnny Unitas, Dan Marino and Don Meredith.

Favre extended his streak of games with at least two touchdown passes to 11 in the win over the Giants, leaving him one two-TD pass game shy of the record.

Favre said the record isn't foremost in his thoughts.

"If we win, it would be great, otherwise I could care less," Favre said. "It's not that big of a record. Not like Cal Ripken's. I don't think I'll get a 20-minute ovation."

A CHANCE: Kicker Dirk Borgognone finally got his shot after five years and five rejections.

Borgognone was cut by the Packers in training camp but brought back when Chris Jacke hurt his hamstring early in the season.

"I wasn't gone for very long," Borgognone said. "But the time I was there I kept kicking because I would be back in some capacity."



Minnesota Vikings

The Minnesota Vikings were having problems keeping their offensive line intact during the early part of the season.

Veteran guard Chris Hinton was helped off the field during the Vikings' Week 3 overtime loss to Dallas in Minnesota. Hinton sustained an apparent serious injury to his right ankle.

The 13-year veteran was hit from behind by a sprawling Charles Haley as Haley tackled Vikings' running back Robert Smith in the first quarter. Hinton was bent over backward at a frightening angle.

The injury looked more gruesome than it actually was. Hinton, a Northwestern product from Chicago, was listed as doubtful for the Vikings' Week 4 tilt against the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Two weeks prior to Hinton's injury, starting tackle Rick Cunningham suffered a knee injury and missed the Vikings' second and third games.

If Hinton can't go, Dave Dixon will probably take his place.

KEEP KICKING: Kicker Fuad Reveiz's performance in the overtime loss to Dallas was like one of those old good-news, bad-news jokes.

The good news for Reveiz was that he extended his league record for consecutive field goals to 31 with a 42-yard make. Reveiz set the record in Week 3.

The bad news was that the streak ended in that same game when he missed a 48-yard field goal attempt. Reveiz's last miss prior to the Cowboys' game was Oct. 10, 1994.

The Vikings have now lost nine of 11 games at home against the Cowboys. Their last home victory versus Dallas was a 31-27 decision in 1982.



Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Is there "A New Day In Tampa Bay" or are these just the same old Bucs?

New ownership has adopted the "new day" slogan as its battle cry but the Bucs showed signs of their same old selves in a Week 3 loss to the Bears.

Tampa Bay entered the game, its home opener, riding the momentum of a 1-1 start.

"We acknowledge that this will be a long, hard, struggling year and that there will be some disappointing Sundays," coach Sam Wyche said after falling to the Bears 25-6. "This was one of them."

The game against the Bears was the Bucs' first September sellout since 1981 and marked the first time Tampa would have a home game telecast since 1992.

PROGRESS REPORT: Wyche knows that part of that "long, hard struggling year" will be because of young and inexperienced quarterback Trent Dilfer.

Dilfer, in his second year, looked good and bad in the Bucs' first two games. Against the Bears, Dilfer was mostly bad.

Dilfer was 11 of 27 for 149 yards. He was intercepted four times before being yanked in favor of Casey Weldon.

"I can honestly tell you that I don't think I've ever felt this lousy after a sporting event," Dilfer said. "I have no idea what happened. I prepared for this game. I had tons of confidence going in and I just played awful."

"Some players and coaches say, 'Take it easy on Trent. He's young.' But there comes a time when a guy has to take it on his shoulders."

After the four interception performance against the Bears, Dilfer's quarterback rating dropped to 48.8.

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Monsters of the Midway

I'm a huge fan of the Chicago Bears and I'm extremely excited about the team's chances to reach the Super Bowl under Dave Wannstedt. He is slowly but surely building another "Monsters of the Midway" squad, and Bear fans have a lot to look forward to.

I think Rashaan Salaam and Raymont Harris are going to be excellent running backs, and we've finally got a respectable group of receivers in Curtis Conway, Jeff Graham and Michael Timpson.

The offensive line is very good, and so are the linebackers and the defensive backs. My only concerns are the inconsistency of the defensive line and the situation at quarterback. Erik Kramer is a nice fit, but Wannstedt needs to groom a talented, young signal-caller for the future.

Also, I'd like to know what Bear players become free agents at the end of the season. Go Bears!

Eric Williams
Mt. Juliet, Tennessee

The contracts of the following Bears expire following the 1995 season: Scott Adams, Troy Auzenne, Myron Baker, Robert Bass, Todd Burger, Tony Carter, Curtis Conway, Ron Cox, Richard Dent, Pat Eilers, Al Fontenot, Jerry Fontenot, Chris Gedney, Jeff Graham, Robert Green, Garland Hawkins, Anthony Johnson, Jay Leeuwenburg, Barry Minter, Todd Perry, Greg Primus, Alonzo Spellman, Steve Walsh and James Williams.

Greetings from afar

I'm a displaced Bear fan living in Hong Kong who fell in love with American football and later the Bears while going to college in Chicago. I can

still recall how the Bears took the league by storm en route to a Super Bowl championship in 1985 with household names like McMahon, The Fridge, Payton, Hampton and Dent.

The win over the Vikings in the season opener was really sweet, but a week later the Bears looked pretty awful when they were beaten badly by the Packers on national TV.

The way the Packers manhandled the Bears really shows how far the Bears may have to go before becoming a legitimate team. True, one game doesn't mean much when there are still 14 to play. But it would be wise to patch the holes before they get out of hand.

I really feel the Bears are in good shape on offense. Nothing against Raymont Harris, but it would be an added bonus if the Bears had a bruising fullback who could open up holes for Rashaan Salaam and Robert Green.

A good offense does not, however, bail you out if you fall behind by tons every game. The Bears defense looked soft against the Packers. The front seven did not generate enough pressure on Brett Favre. The Bears are painfully lacking someone who can push the pocket back, stuff the run and rush the passer from the

outside like Dan Hampton and Richard Dent did in the past.

Until the Bears do something about that, they may not be able to hold off their division rivals, let alone compete with elite teams like the Niners or Cowboys.

Steve Tang
Hong Kong

Two improvements

After watching the Bears lose to the Packers, I feel the Bears need a couple of players to complete this team. One is defensive tackle Russell Maryland of the Cowboys and another is a cornerback.

I have heard reports that Dallas is trying to trade Maryland to Kansas City, but he would fit in with the Bears even better. The Bears are so young, and a player like Maryland could only strengthen their defensive front.

I think the Bears will win 10 games this season, but to be able to advance in the playoffs they will need to address these two areas of concern.

Bill McRann
Cody, Wyoming



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If there's a Bears item you've been searching long and hard for or if you just want to hook up with other Bears fans in your area, we can help. Your request or offer will be printed free of charge on a space-available basis.

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All ads that pertain to the sale of items or merchandise, services offered, or representing a business establishment must run in the Classified Ads section.

WANTED: A 1994 Chicago Bears media guide and a Super Bowl program.

Contact: Asher Bazzarre, 2656 Buck Island Road, Charlottesville, VA 22902.

WANTED: To correspond with Bear fans in the U.S. and foreign countries.

Contact: Mamie B. Younger, Apt. 001SR95, 3343 Webster Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

WANTED: Tickets for any 1995 Bears home game.

Contact: Kevin Hamrick, 2312 Dover Drive, Springfield, IL 62703, 217-585-8137.

WANTED: VHS copies of '85 regular season games and '88 Fog Bowl.

Contact: Nick Thomas, 447 Mississippi Blvd., Bettendorf, IA 52722, 319-355-3727.

WANTED: VHS tape of Super Bowl XX and any pictures or memorabilia featuring Gary Fencik.

Contact: Jon Sutter, P.O. Box 11212, Green Bay, WI 54307-1212.

TRADE: Seeking Bear items of interest in return for hard to find books "I am Third" by Gale Sayers and "Stop Action" by Dick Butkus.

Contact: David Tolsky, 16000 Tuba Street, North Hills, CA 91343, 818-891-5921.



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